

# Home Town Helps

## GOOD IN FLOWER GARDENS

Their Cultivation is of Help to the Children and to the Neighborhood.

Those having in charge the garden work of the city schools are also encouraging the building of children's gardens at home. These juvenile efforts may control the whole garden or be confined to a small space only, appropriate prizes having been offered for each, and also for every possible phase of home gardening. This work should engage the serious attention of every parent to the extent of provision for children's gardens in the home premises just as soon as the hardest seasonal rains are over, which should be about the time these words appear in print. Several years ago, when personally interested in the starting of school gardens in Los Angeles the City Beautiful editor reprinted the following good reasons why children should have home gardens and be encouraged in the work. Nearly every one of them applies with equal force to school gardens.

1. Wherever it has been tried, the children have been more willing to stay at home and have taken more interest in the home because they love pretty things.
2. They have learned to be neat and regular in their work and to take a personal pride in it, that goes a long way toward keeping them good and happy.
3. It gives light and pleasant exercise in the open air and offers something that can be seen and enjoyed in return for the work.
4. It gives safe companionship.
5. It teaches many things about outdoor life that are worth much more than those learned in the streets.
6. It makes the child feel that he does something for the home, and this is a great safeguard.
7. It gives occupation and relieves much of the restlessness that is so trying to the mother.
8. It gives a feeling of ownership and control that strengthens character.
9. It will give flowers for the house all summer and fall.
10. A flower garden is contagious. It appeals not only to its owner, but to a wide circle of people. In looking at it, neighbors begin to realize that their houses, their lawns, their walks, their doorways, their back yards, are all great gossip that tell tales to every passer-by, and unlike most gossips, they tell the truth.—Los Angeles Times.

## PLAN FOR CITY MANAGERS

Kansas Municipalities May Be Given Power to Hire Expert to Look After Affairs.

An enabling act that will allow the cities of Kansas to name a city manager to handle all the business of a city was introduced in the senate by Senator Howe of Dickinson county. Abilene, Senator Howe's home, has been operating under a city manager plan. The bill provides for the selection of city commissioners and a mayor as under the present commission government law. They are to receive a nominal salary and are directed to name a city manager, who is to serve for an indefinite time, and cannot be removed except upon written charges, and must be given a chance to defend himself. All city employees are to be named by a civil service board, except the heads of each city department.

The commission is to have nothing to do but pass ordinances for the government of the city, and the city manager is to attend to all the business of the city and is directly responsible to the city commission for his acts. The law requires that the manager be experienced in handling engineering and utility problems.

The law is made optional and before the city can hire a city manager a vote must be had in favor of the plan.

### Usefulness of Gardens.

A writer in the Southern Woman's Magazine calls gardens "the solution for misspent leisure in childhood." "There is great economic truth," she says, "at the bottom of the garden movement, and its value has been recognized long ago in European countries, which have brought about different forms of development. Austria established experimental gardens in its rural schools as far back as 1869. Switzerland, Germany and England have a garden course in their public schools, while France goes farther and maintains not only flower and vegetable gardens, but includes orchards, forestry and bee industry. The garden movement is of special significance in cities where large numbers of children are turned out on the streets to loiter, tease and maraud. When the welfare workers and educators fully realize the far-reaching value of this movement it will spread like wildfire over the country.

It is remarked that the school garden movement in this country had its beginning in Boston, but that Cleveland's school board has given it perhaps the greatest impetus. As the result of it there are said to be 50,000 home gardens in Cleveland.

# ORCHARD GLEANINGS

## PROPER SITE FOR VINEYARD

Hilly Ground Should Be Preferred, With Slope Towards South—Frequent Cultivation Needed.

In selecting a site for a vineyard hilly ground should be preferred and the slope should be toward the south. This will give the necessary air ventilation and the hot sun for ripening. Any soil that is not too poor will do, but it should be free from hardpan, as the deep roots protect the vines during a drought. The first few years after planting give the young vines a chance to make a healthy growth. Keep the weeds down with the frequent cultivation. This ought to be kept up during the entire life of the plant, for without it there can be no great success in grape growing.

I believe I am safe in saying that 95 per cent of the vines in commercial



Grape is Most Useful Fruit.

vineyards, particularly around our part of the country, are Concord, writes J. P. Hess of Iowa in Orange Judd Farmer. This is the great commercial grape. The sturdiness and hardiness of its vines, which resist both drought and freezing, and its unfailing production, make it of great value. The fact that its picking season extends over three weeks is also an important item.

The grapes in our country are very free from disease and insect pests. Leaf hopper is a pest only where lack of cultivation allows the weeds to grow under and about the vines. Borers can be kept out by careful pruning and cutting away all canes where they appear and burning them. Black rot appears only where rows are too close together or on level ground and in a wet season. These are the only diseases or pests which amount to anything with us. We do not spray. In some places, however, the requirements might be different.

## CULTIVATE THE STRAWBERRY

Plants Should Be Secured From Seryman Who Makes Specialty Them—Keep Weeds Out.

Some of the best in the commercial growing of strawberries that should emphasize are:

Buy your plants from some man who makes a specialty of doing them. By doing this you are so likely to get "mixed plants," brown-rooted ones. Pick the crowned plants and prune the back to about three or four inches.

Commerce cultivation as soon as plants are set and keep it up all autumn. The soil must be loosened no weeds allowed to grow. plants have done well during first summer there should be more than six inches between the rows of adjacent plants.

They will bear the first year, it is better to pinch off all the blossoms and wait for the second year. Mulch with straw for the winter, turning it over them to a depth of three inches. This straw is raked from the plants in spring, but it is between the rows to hold moisture during dry weather.

## PROPER DISTANCE TO PLANT

Apple Trees Should Be Thinned Apart Each Way—Dwarfed About Half of Space.

Standard apples, 30 feet apart each way.

Standard pears and strong growing cherries, 20 feet apart each way.

Duke and Morello cherries, 15 feet apart.

Prunes, plums, apricots, peaches, nectarines, 16 to 20 feet apart.

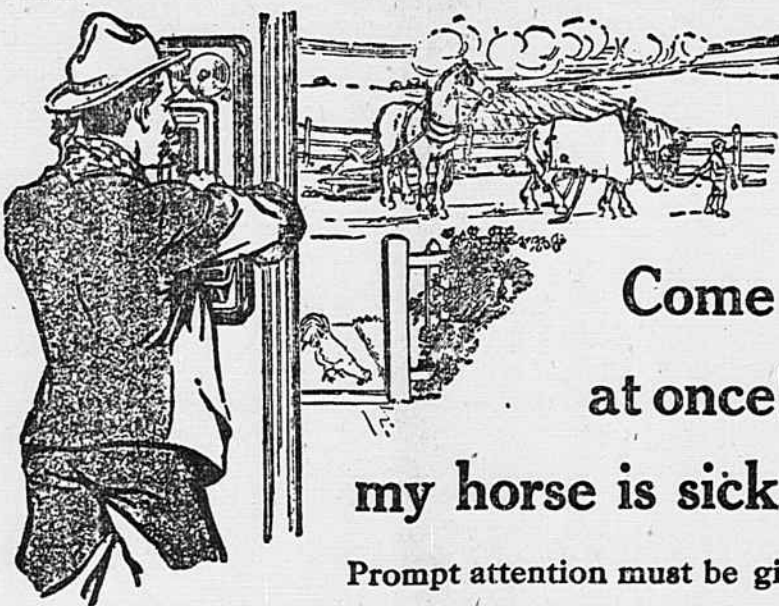
Dwarf pears, 10 to 12 feet apart.

Dwarf apples, 10 to 12 feet apart.

Grapes, rows 10 to 15 feet apart to 16 feet in rows.

### Evaporation of Fruits.

The main change which takes place in the evaporation of fruits is that of water, but other changes also occur. Very often the right degree of heat produces changes not those which occur during natural ripening of the plant.



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